Utilisation of cotton exports quota by the exporting agencies

651. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton export quota released by his-Ministry is not being utilised by the exporting agencies; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that the United States and China are having bumper cotton crops this year and thereby making Indian export extremely difficult; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether cotton crop this year was beyond the target set up by the Government; and

(d) whether Central and State Government agencies will be buying more cotton due to bumper cotton crop; if so, what is the quantum purchased from Gujarat and other States so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The exporting agencies have been experiencing difficulty in export of cotton due to easy supply position of cotton in the international market, during the current cotton year. Government of India released for export during the current cotton year, 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton 52,000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of Yellow Pickings, in favour of various exporting agencies. Out of these, 1,30,793 bales of long and extra long staple cotton, 29,497 bales of Bengal Deshi and 10961 bales of Yellow Pickings were registered for export upto March, 1986.

(b) Yes, Sir. The production of cotton in USA and China during the current cotton year is estimated at 13.53 million bales and 22.05 million bales respectively. India is facing stiff competition from these countries in export of cotton, during the current cotton year.

(c) and (d) The cotton crop during the current cotton season has now been estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board at about 107 lakh bales as against the earlier estimate of 94 lakh bales. The Cotton Corporation of India has been directed to continue its purchases in the cotton growing states including Gujarat. The Cotton Corporation of India purchased a total quantity of 13.84 lakh bales from various cotton growing States including 3.64 lakh bales of cotton from Gujarat as on 24th April, 1986. The Gujarat State Cooperative Cotton Federation has also been advised to step up its purchases.

Decline in the off-take of foodgrains from FCI godowns

652. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that offtake of foodgrains from the FCI godowns has gone down due to rise in prices of wheat and rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no supply of foodgrains in the rural areas; and

(c) what was the quantum of foodgrains supplied to rural areas during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 for distribution through the Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir. The off-take of foodgrains from Central Pool during February, 1986 and March, 1986, were estimated at 14.66 lakh tonnes and 17.65 lakh tonnes respectively as against 10.92 lakh tonnes in February, 1985 and 11.36 lakh tonnes in March, 1985.

(b) and (c) Information regarding distribution of foodgrains through Fair Price Shops in rural areas separately is not available. Public distribution within the State including its coverage is the responsibility of the State Government.

5 per cent Economic cut in Expenditure

653. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 5 per cent cut in the expenditure of various Ministries/ Departments of the Government of India as a measure of economy has been effected ; and

(b) if so, what achievements have been made in this regard in the various Ministries / Departments (Ministry/Department-wise) during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) (a) and (b) Instructions were issued to Ministries/Departments of the Government to effect a cut in the Central non-Plan expenditure by 3 per cent over the approved amounts for 1983-84. They were further advised to bring about 5 percent cut in approved Plan outlays for the year 1983-84.

The Government continued to take necessary steps to curb inessential and non-productive expenditure during the 1984-85.

Instructions were again issued in September 1985 for effecting a cut of 5 per cent in the non-plan expenditure voted by Parliament for the year 1985-86. The figures of savings reported by each Ministry/Department etc., over the voted non-Plan expenditure for the year 1985-86 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Ministry/Department	Savings Reported (1985-86)
1	2
Agriculture and Cooperation (other than imported Fertilizers)	10·00
—Do.— (Imported Fertilizers)	150·00
Rural Development	0·32
Commerce	43·93
Textiles	19·70
Supply	6·68
Communications	0·05
Post	61·00